

February 20, 2017

Dear Senators Osten and Formica and Representative Walker, and the members of the Appropriations Committee

My name is Katiria Maldonado and I am the Parent Educator for the

Family Resource Center in North Windham School. As i sit here and write this letter i think about how hard of a decision it must be to decide what programs are more important. Growing up in the Windham area as a kid it was never easy, programs have always been needed in this community. The FRC Grant gives us the opportunity to make a difference in many families lives including young parents. As I visit teen parents in the High School i think about what support they will have for their children if the FRC's are no longer providing parenting services. In the seven years that I've been working for the Family Resource Center i have had the pleasure of working with families from all walks of life. Single mom's trying to make ends meet by going through the immigration process and applying for driver's license. Referrals to birth to three and maintaining communication with other agencies for the benefit of the families. Providing literacy groups for children in the school. Also planning activities so parents can attend with their children and feel welcome at the school. If you take the grant away from The Family Resource Center many families will loose the connections in the community. The program allows stay at home parents to experience time away from home, meeting other families that share similar interest. Also the home visiting piece has been great for many families which have concerns about their child's development, parents receive information and any kind of connection to programs that can further help.

I know that all programs are important, but i feel FRC'S make a difference not only in the child's life but the family. Families know we are only a phone call away when they have questions or are in need of help.

Thank you in Advance,

Katiria Maldonado